

wherein said connecting means comprises an optical connecting device according to claim 44.

53. (Not Amended) An optical wiring device comprising:

an electrical connecting portion;

an optical transmission means for transmitting an optical signal, said optical transmission means including a metal wiring; and

an optical device for conducting an optoelectric conversion, said optical device disposed between said electric connecting portion and said optical transmission means,

wherein said optical transmission means and said optical device are fixed such that said optical transmission means is optically coupled to said optical device, and said electric connecting portion is detachable.

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#### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 28-53 are pending in the present application. Claims 28, 42-44, and 53 are the independent claims.

Claims 28, 30-34, 38, 39, 41- 48, and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,631,988 (Swirhun, et al.). Claims 29, 37, 40, and 49-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Swirhun, et al. Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Swirhun, et al.

in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,614 (Gilliland, et al.) These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 28, 42-44, and 53 recite, inter alia, that optical transmission means and an optical device are fixed such that the optical transmission means is optically coupled to the optical device.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Swirhun, et al. nor Gilliland, et al., alone or in combination (assuming arguendo, that the documents could be combined) discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed feature of independent Claims 28, 42-44, and 53.

Swirhun, et al. teaches that an optoelectrical device array 110 is monolithically formed on a semiconductor chip 105 disposed on a dielectric substrate 90 of an optoelectronic board 101. (Swirhun, et al., Col. 5, lines 53-56). Swirhun, et al. also teaches that a plurality of optical fibers 135 are embedded in an optical fiber connector 150 and that the optical fiber connector can easily be attached or detached from the optoelectronic board. (Swirhun, et al., Col. 4, lines 9-12; Col. 7, lines 13-14). In one embodiment illustrated by Figure 3, the optoelectronic board is mounted to a twenty-pin package 200.

The Office takes the position that the bottom of the twenty-pin package shown in Figure 3 of Swirhun, et al. is an electrical communication portion. (Office Action, page 2). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

It is respectfully submitted that the Office's position is untenable because, inter alia, if the plurality of optical fibers 135 (optical transmission means) were fixed to the optoelectrical device 110 (optical device) as suggested by the Office, the twenty-pin

package (electric communication portion) would not be detachable, as recited in Claims 28, 42-44, and 53. For at least this reason, Swirhun, et al. does not teach or suggest at least the aforementioned feature of independent Claims 28, 42-44, and 53.

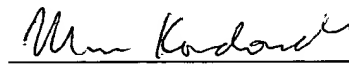
Regarding the rejection of Claim 35, Gilliland, et al. relates to an optoelectronic coupling and method of making the same and is cited for its alleged teaching of a CMOS buffer. Applicant respectfully submits that Gilliland, et al. adds nothing to the teachings of Swirhun, et al. that would remedy the aforementioned deficiency.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as the base claims from which they depend and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action and submit that the present application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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